

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 PALERM 00154 100848Z  
ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT, EFIN, EIND

SUBJ: SICILIAN SARABAND - THE PRESIDENCY OF THE BANK OF SICILY  
: ROME 3077

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: BANK OF SICILY IS ONE OF ITALY'S MAIN CREDIT INSTITUTIONS, WITH DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN BRANCHES, INCLUDING ONE WHICH WILL SHORTLY OPEN IN NEW YORK. IT IS ALSO THE "TREASURY" OF THE SICILIAN REGIONAL GOVERNMENT. BECAUSE IT IS PERHAPS THE ISLAND'S MOST SELECT AND SOUGHT AFTER PLUM, THE FIGHT FOR ITS PRESIDENCY, VACANT NOW FOR SEVEN YEARS, HAS TOPPLED REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS AND PROMPTED THE MAKING AND UNMAKING OF COUNTLESS PARTY AND GOVERNMENT COALITIONS AND A VARIETY OF POLITICAL AND PERSONAL FEUDS. END SUMMARY.

2. AS CITED REFTEL, BOTH THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND TREASURY MINISTER STAMMATI - THE TREASURY MINISTER NOMINALLY APPOINTS THE BANK'S PRESIDENT FROM AMONG THREE CANDIDATES PROPOSED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SICILIAN REGION - ARE TRYING TO WRAP-UP SEVERAL RELATED BANK APPOINTMENTS IN SICILY AND ELSEWHERE. AS FOR THE SICILIAN PIECE OF THE PUZZLE, A RECENT ATTEMPT TO ADVANCE THE NOMINATION OF THE PRESENT DC REGIONAL SECRETARY, ROSARIO NICOLETTI (FORZE NUOVE), PROMPTED A SUDDEN, IF STRAINED, ALLIANCE BETWEEN FANFANIANO LEADER GIOVANNI GIOIA AND NINO GULLOTTI AND ATTILIO  
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PAGE 02 PALERM 00154 100848Z

RUFFINI NATIONAL MINISTERS OF PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORT-MERCHANT MARINE RESPECTIVELY). NICOLETTI WAS FAVORED BY THE PCI AND "ACCEPTABLE" TO REGIONAL PRESIDENT ANGELO BONFIGLIO (DC) SINCE BOTH NICOLETTI AND BONFIGLIO ARE MAJOR ADVOCATES AND BENEFICIARIES OF THE LOCAL VERSION OF THE HISTORIC COMPROMISE. IN ORDER TO KILL NICOLETTI'S NOMINATION, BOTH GIOIA AND GULLOTTI ENDORSED THE NOMINATION OF FANFANIANO GIUSEPPE LA LOGGIA, CHAIRMAN OF THE CHAMBER

FINANCE AND TREASURY COMMITTEE AND FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE SICILIAN  
. LA LOGGIA'S NOMINATION HAS ALWAYS HAD THE ENERGETIC  
SUPPORT OF RUFFINI, THE LOCAL LEADER OF THE PICCOLI-BISAGLIA  
FACTION, WHO ALSO HAPPENS TO BE LA LOGGIA'S SON-IN-LAW.

3. PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS WITHIN THE DC HAD ASSIGNED THE PRESIDENCY  
OF THE BANK OF SICILY TO THE FANFANI. NICOLETTI'S NOMINATION  
WOULD, AMONG OTHERS, HAVE FAVORED ANDREOTTI'S MAN-IN-TOWN, SALVO  
LIMA, WHO IS ALSO LESS ADVERSE TO COMPROMESSO-STYLE ARRANGEMENTS  
THAN GIOIA AND CO.

4. LATTER-DAY CANDIDACIES TO THE BANK PRESIDENCY OF THE PSI'S  
SALVATORE LAURICELLA, FORMER REGIONAL GOV'T. PRESIDENT ALESSI,  
AND STATE PRINTING OFFICE DIRECTOR LANZA, A FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE  
REGIONAL ASSEMBLY, ARE GIVEN VERY LITTLE PROSPECT OF SUCCESS  
THOUGH A COMPROMISE POLITICAL CANDIDATE, OR A "TECHNICIAN" COULD  
BE ELECTED SHOULD THE PRINCIPAL CANDIDATES KNOCK EACH OTHER OUT.

5. IN PAST EPISODES OF THE SAME DRAMA, GIOIA HAD CONSISTENTLY  
OPPOSED LA LOGGIA FOR FEAR OF GIVING TOO MUCH POWER TO A RIVAL  
MEMBER OF THE SAME DC FACTION. GIOIA'S PREVIOUS POSITION (AND  
'S FAMILY TIES) PROMPTED THE LATTE'S PAST SUPPORT FOR LOCAL-  
LEVEL "CONFRONTO" WITH THE PCI THUS PRECIPITATING GIOIA'S LOSS OF  
CONTROL, INTER ALIA, OF BOTH THE PALERMO CITY AND PROVINCIAL  
ADMINISTRATIONS AND A NUMBER OF LESSER AFTER-SHOCKS.

COMMENT: CURRENT SPECULATION SUGGESTS THAT SUCCESSFUL  
CANDIDATE WILL PERHAPS BE NAMED AFTER BANK'S ANNUAL STATEMENT OF

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PAGE 03 PALERM 00154 100848Z

ACCOUNT IS PUBLISHED IN MID-APRIL. WHENEVER EVENT OCCURS, AND  
WHOEVER IS CHOSEN, SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE AND HIS BACKERS WILL  
CONSTITUTE POLITICAL ALLIANCE WITH CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT LOCALLY AND  
PROVIDE INDICATION OF HOW FAR LOCAL DC IS WILLING TO GO WITH PCI  
WHEN POSITIONS WITH REAL POWER ARE CONCERNED.  
COLLINS

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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